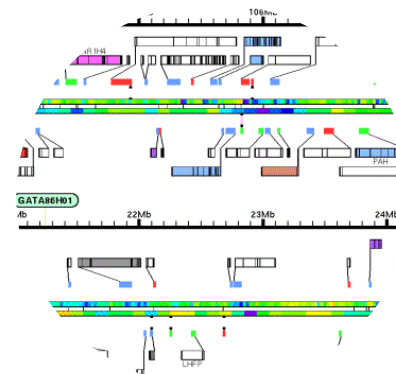
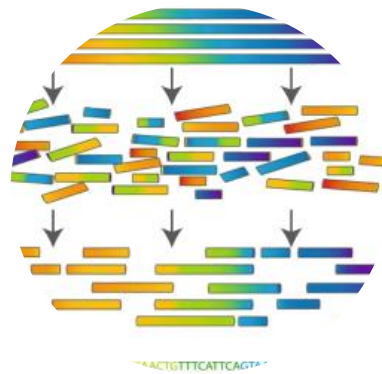
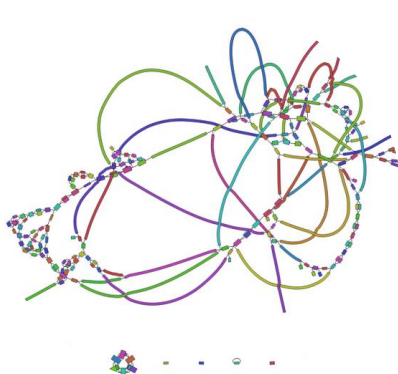


# ITGE2023

## INTRODUCTION TO TUBERCULOSIS GENOMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Rio Grande RS 2023

### Module 2: *De novo* Assembly



João Perdigão

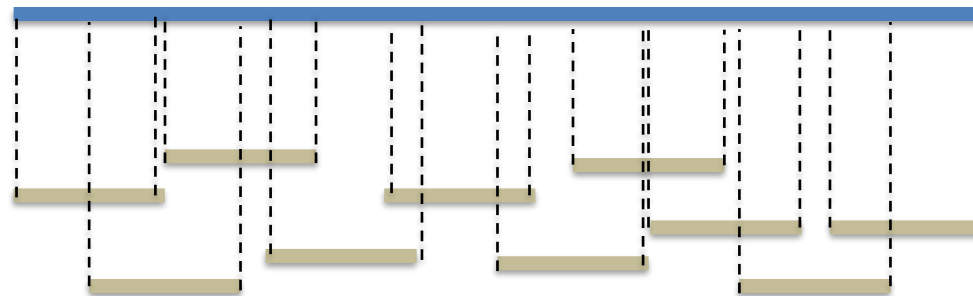
# *De novo* Assembly

*De novo* assembly – genome assembly without a reference genome, i.e., starting *de novo* from sequence data

*De novo* assembly  $\neq$  Reference assembly

*Unknown Genome*

*Sequence Reads*



*What we think the  
Genome is!!*

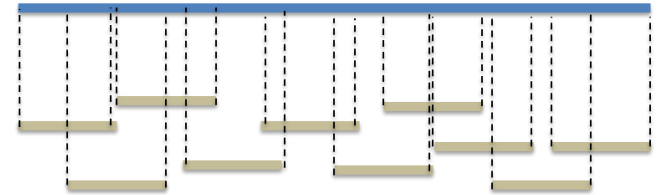


# *De novo* Assembly

*de novo* assembly attempts to reconstruct genomes by exploring read overlapping and contiguity

## Problems and Challenges:

- Large volume of sequence reads
- Sequencing errors
- Genomic repeat patterns/regions and homopolymers
- Uneven coverage/sequencing



**But, what is the definition of an assembly?**

*Best set of sequences that can approximate the sequenced genetic material*

***Implications?***

# Why to assemble?

## Objective/Purpose of the Assembly:

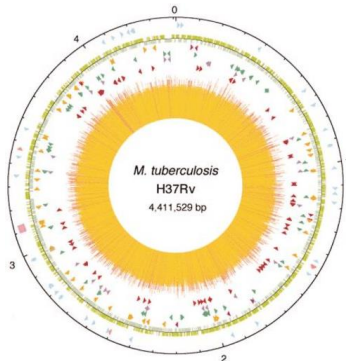
Obtain a reference genome



PacBio/Oxford Nanopore



Finished Genome Assembly



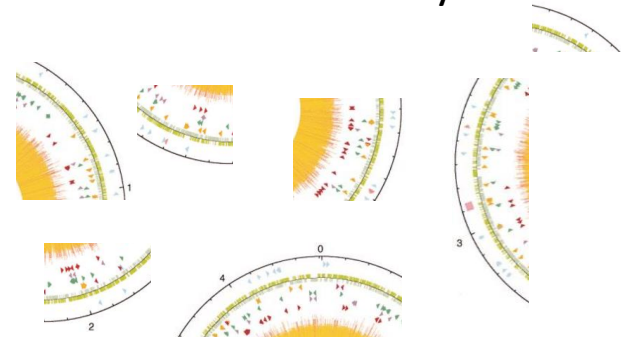
Gene content, insertions, deletions



Illumina



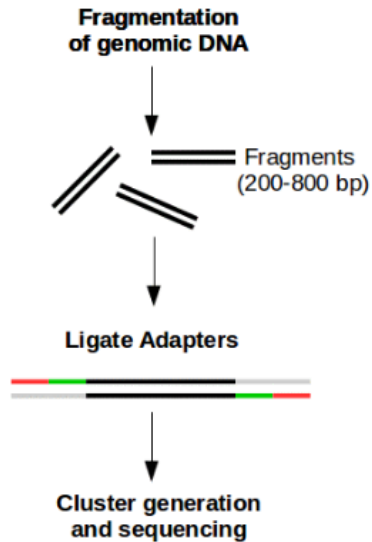
Draft Genome Assembly



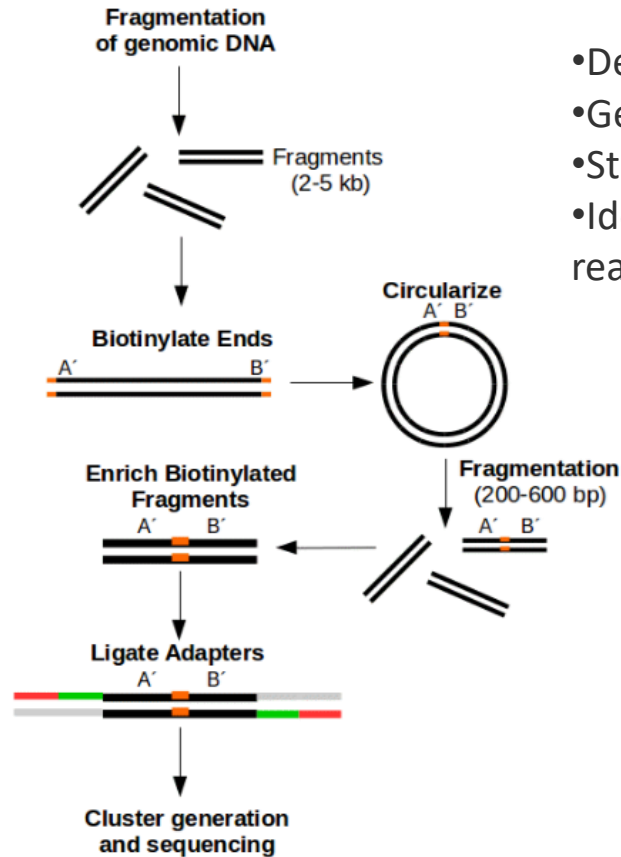
Manual closure  
Mate-pair sequencing

# Mate Pair Sequencing

## Paired-End Sequencing (Short-insert paired-end reads)



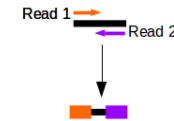
## Mate Pair Sequencing



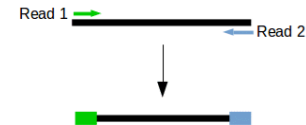
Mate pair sequencing is used for various applications applications, including:

- De novo genome sequencing
- Genome finishing
- Structural variant detection
- Identification of complex genomic rearrangements

### Short-insert paired-end reads



### Long-insert paired-end reads (Mate pair)



### De novo sequencing



## Three major methods for assembly:

### i) overlap-and-extend

Finds read overlap and extends – suffix of a read is equal to the prefix of another read with a length that meets a defined threshold.

Software: SSAKE, VCAKE and SHARCGS

### ii) string graph

Construction of string graph where each read is a vertex with edges connecting overlapping nodes.

Software: Edena and BOA

Problems: high memory consumption and sequencing errors

## Three major methods for assembly:

### iii) de Bruijn Graph

Each vertex represents a substring of length  $k$  ( $k$ -mer) in a read. Edges connect vertexes if these are consecutive vertexes, i.e., the last  $k-1$  nucleotides in  $k$ -mer  $u$  are the same as the first  $k-1$  nucleotides of  $k$ -mer  $v$ .

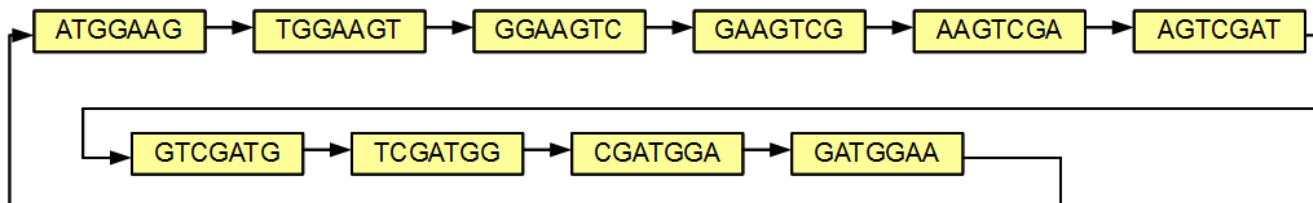
Software: Velvet, SOAPdenovo, SPAdes

Most widely used approaches.

Objective: represent every possible  $k$ -mer present in the genome!

ATGGAAGTCGATGGAAG

ATGGAAG  
TGAAGT  
GGAAGTC  
GAAGTCG  
AAGTCGA  
AGTCGAT  
GTCGATG  
TCGATGG  
CGATGGA  
GATGGAA  
ATGGAAG



## Three major methods for assembly:

### iii) de Bruijn Graph

## Connecting the nodes:

- *Hamiltonian path*: visits **every vertex in the graph** (exactly once, because it is a path)
- *Eulerian trail*: visits **every edge in the graph** exactly once (because it is a trail, vertices may well be crossed more than once.)



William Hamilton



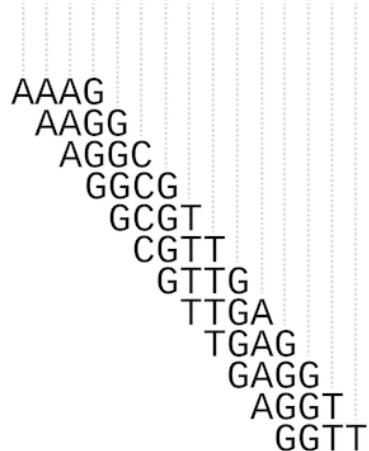
Leonhard Euler



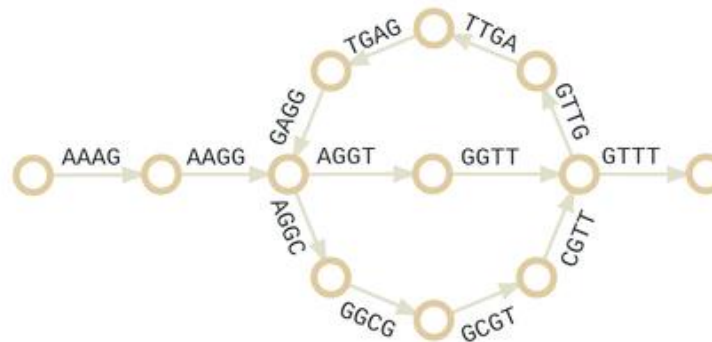
Nicolaas de Bruijn

**A.** Short read to  $k$ -mers ( $k=4$ )

AAAGGCGTTGAGGTT



### B. Eulerian de Bruijn graph



### C. Hamiltonian de Bruijn graph



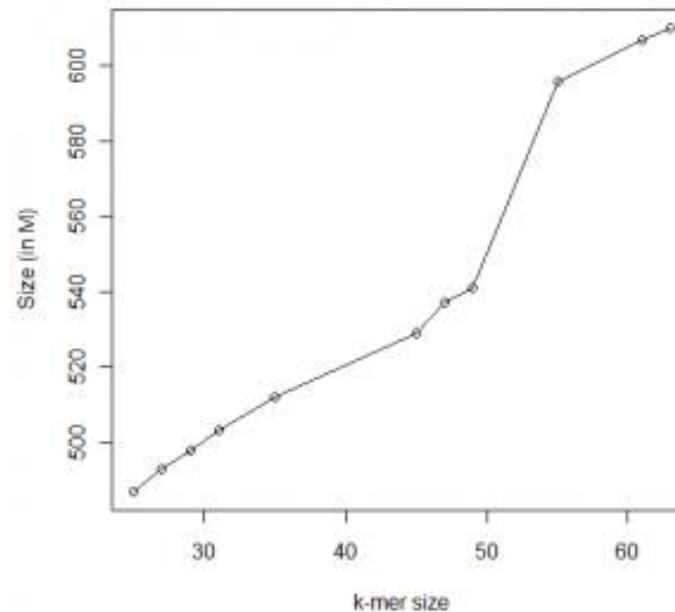
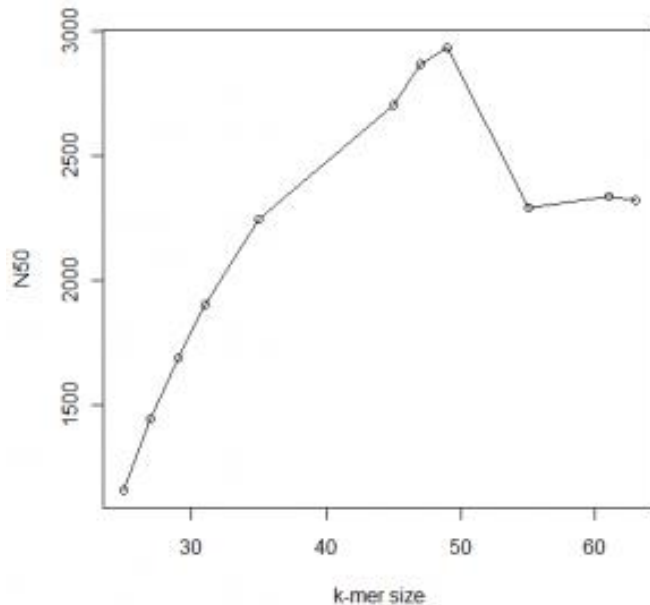


Three major methods for assembly:

## iii) de Bruijn Graph

Choice of the k-mer length: always below the read-length of your data!

The k-mer length should be an odd number: avoid palindromes – an odd-sized k-mer cannot form palindromes when reverse-complemented!



# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

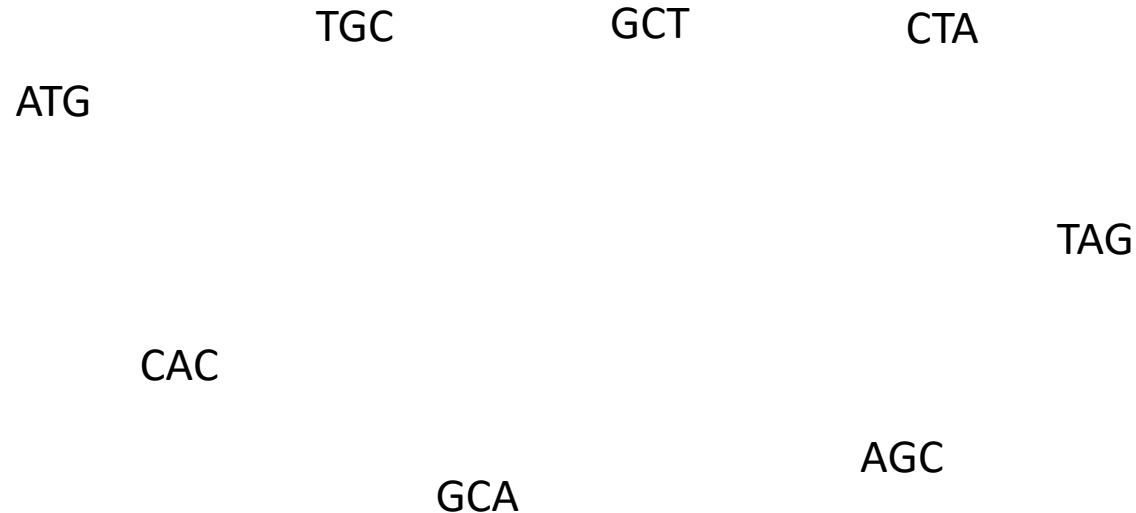
Let's consider the following reads:

ATGCTA

GCTAGC

TAGCAC

CTAGCA



1 List all 3bp k-mers

2 Establish links (edges) between k-mers differing by k-1 nucleotides

3 Visit all nodes and use the minimal path length

# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

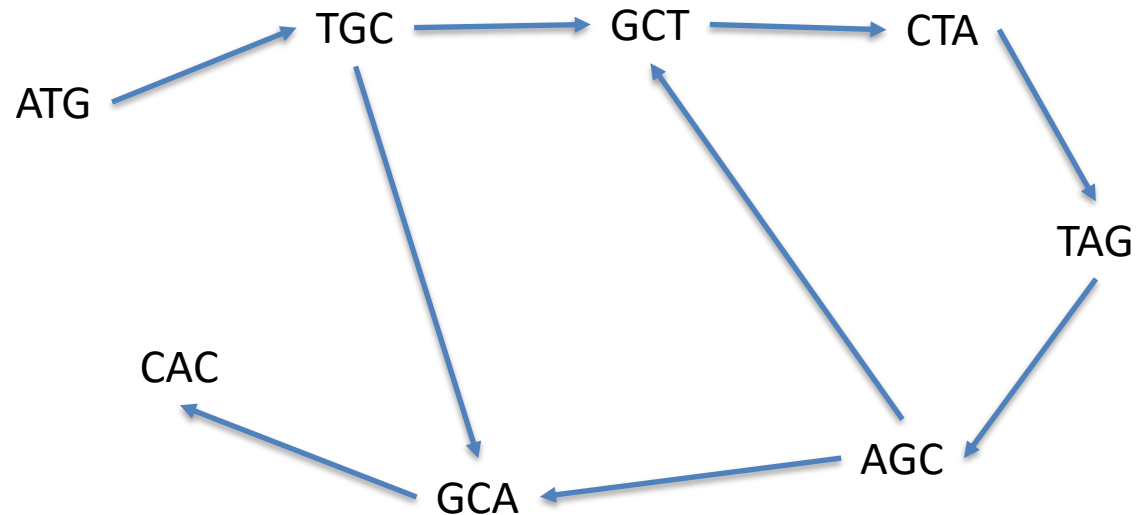
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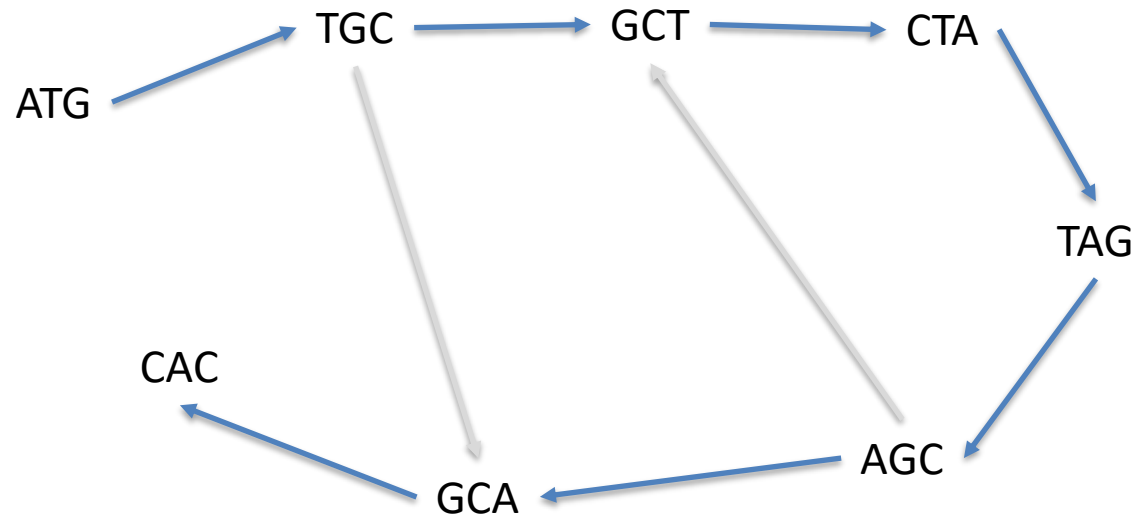
2 Establish links (edges) between k-mers differing by k-1 nucleotides

3 Visit all nodes only once

# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

Let's consider the following reads:

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ATGCTAGCAC

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# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

Let's consider the following reads:

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The Eulerian Path



- 1 List all 3bp k-mers
- 2 Define nodes between edges
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# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

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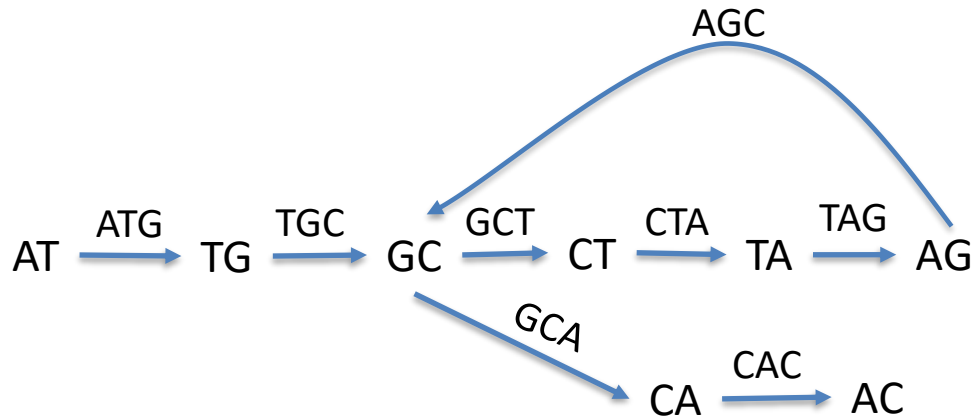
- 1 List all 3bp k-mers
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# De Bruijn Graphs - Exercise

Let's consider the following reads:

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The Eulerian Path



ATGCTAGCAC

- 1 List all 3bp k-mers
- 2 Define nodes between edges
- 3 Visit all edges only once

# Evaluating and Comparing Assemblies

## Metrics to Evaluate and Compare Assemblies:

Evaluating an assembly can be reference-free or comparing to a reference genome!

### Purpose:

1. Assess the individual quality of an assembly;
2. Compare assemblers.

### Metrics commonly used:

- Number of contigs/scaffolds
- Total length of the assembly
- Length of the largest contig/scaffold
- Percentage of gaps in scaffolds ('N')
- N50/NG50 of contigs/scaffolds
- Number of predicted genes
- Number of core single-copy genes

### Software:

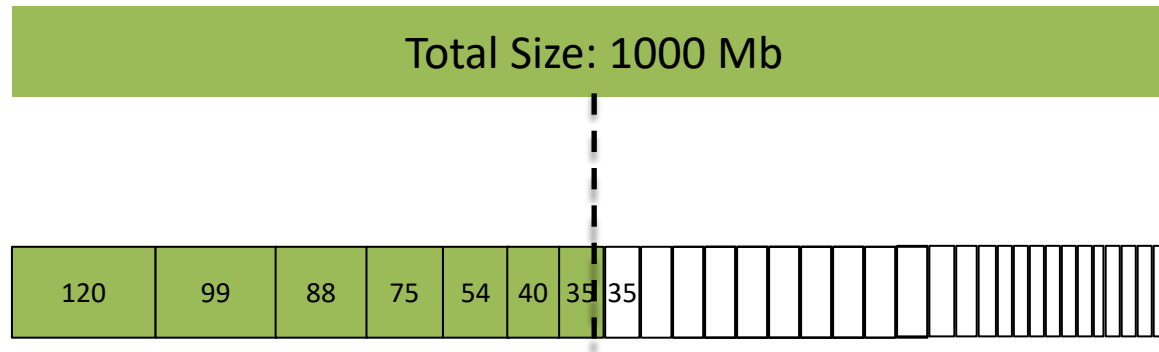
**QUAST** – allows comparison against reference

**BUSCO** – evaluates the presence of core single-copy orthologous genes

**CheckM** – evaluation of gene abundance, genomic completeness and contamination



## N50 and L50 and other metrics



**N50** – shortest contig length spanning the midpoint of the assembly length (after sorting from largest to smallest contig);

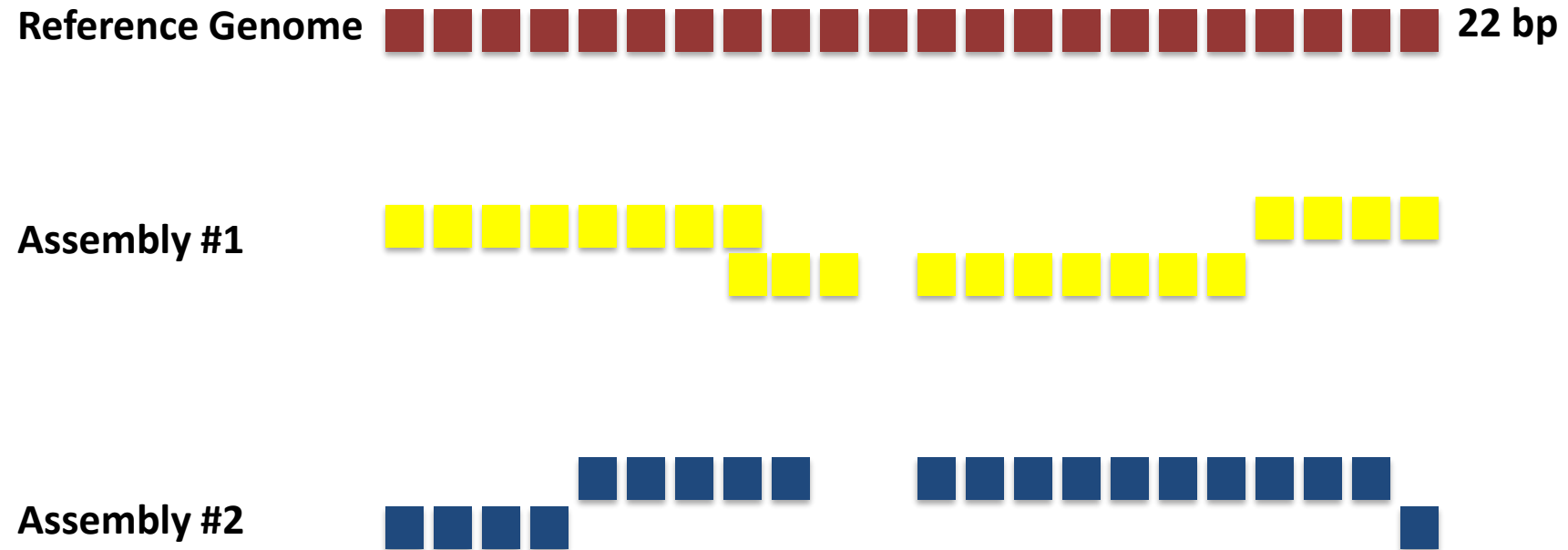
**NG50** – shortest contig length spanning the midpoint of the estimated genome size (after sorting from largest to smallest contig);

**L50** – number of contigs necessary to span the midpoint of the assembly length (after sorting from largest to smallest contig)

**LG50** – number of contigd necessary to span the midpoint of the estimated genome size (after sorting from largest to smallest contig)

*N50 and L50 in this exemple?*

# Evaluating and Comparing Assemblies

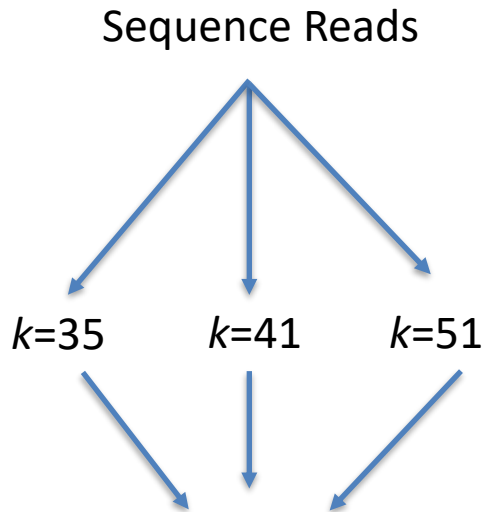


Calculate:	Assembly #1	Assembly #2
N50	7	10
NG50	7	5
Coverage	95.4%	90.9%
Total Length of Assembly	22	20

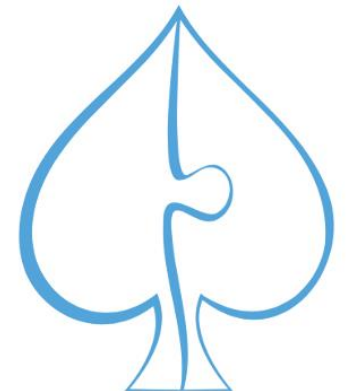
# Multi *k*-mer assembly – the way forward

## Multi k-mer assembly:

*Multi-k-mer strategies always provide better results than single k-mer*



Merge Assemblies -> Velvet+cd-hit+minimus2  
Iterative Assembly removing assembled reads – IDBA  
Multi-kmer de Bruijn graph - **SPAdes**



# Assembly pipelines



## As input, Unicycler takes one of the following:

- Illumina reads from a bacterial isolate (ideally paired-end, but unpaired works too)
- A set of long reads (either PacBio or Nanopore) from a bacterial isolate (uncorrected long reads are fine, though corrected long reads should work too)
- Illumina reads and long reads from the same isolate (best case)

## Reasons to use Unicycler:

- It circularises replicons without the need for a separate tool like [Circlator](#).
- It handles plasmid-rich genomes.
- It can use long reads of any depth and quality in hybrid assembly. 10x or more may be required to complete a genome, but Unicycler can make nearly-complete genomes with far fewer long reads.
- It produces an assembly *graph* in addition to a contigs FASTA file, viewable in [Bandage](#).
- It has very low misassembly rates.
- It can cope with very repetitive genomes, such as [Shigella](#).
- It's easy to use: runs with just one command and usually doesn't require tinkering with parameters.

## Reasons to not use Unicycler:

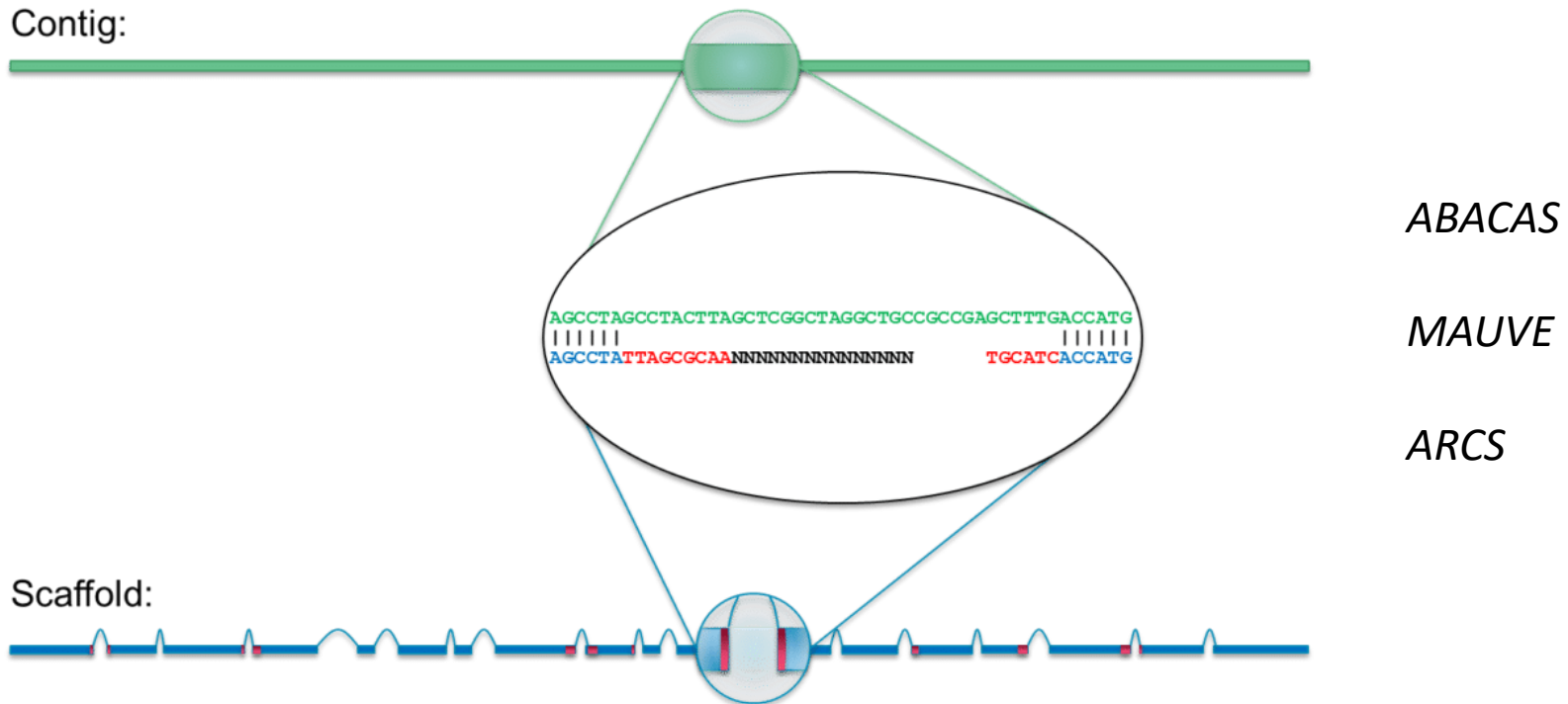
- You're assembling a eukaryotic genome or a metagenome (Unicycler is designed exclusively for bacterial isolates).
- Your Illumina reads and long reads are from different isolates (Unicycler struggles with sample heterogeneity).
- You're impatient (Unicycler is thorough but not especially fast).

## Unicycler does:

- ***Short-read assembly***
- ***Long-read assembly***
- ***Hybrid assembly***

*Contigs are continuous stretches of sequence containing only A, C, G, or T bases without gaps.*

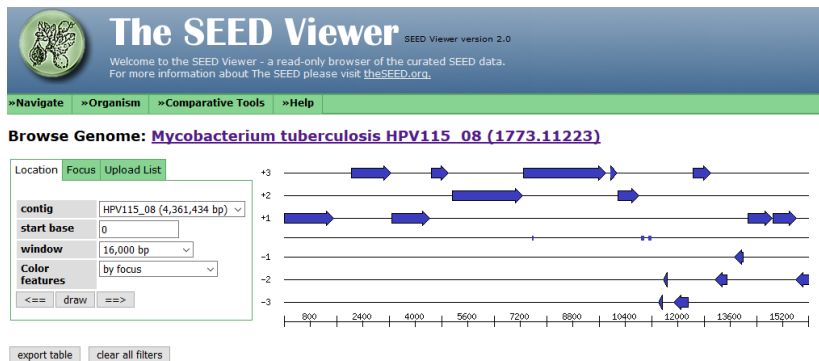
*Scaffolds are created by chaining contigs together **using additional information** about the relative position and orientation of the contigs in the genome*



*Prokka*

*RAST*

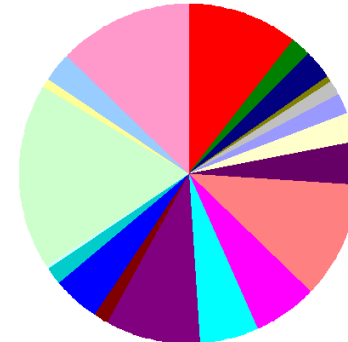
*NCBI Prokaryotic Annotation Pipeline*



Subsystem Coverage



Subsystem Category Distribution



Subsystem Feature Counts

